



*All Are Welcome, All Are Accepted,
All Are Loved and All Achieve*

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Dear Mothers, Fathers and Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you've had a wonderful festive break with your children and managed to find the time to rest and recuperate as a family. The children have returned refreshed and ready for learning. The atmosphere in school has been kind and calm with plenty of learning happening from Nursery right up to Y6. As we move through the rest of winter, we have plenty of exciting learning and experiences for your children planned. We have just introduced a new way of teaching Reading, based on high-quality books to engage and excite our children, we have story-telling week coming up and our Young Voices choir are going to Sheffield Arena in a few weeks to perform in front of thousands of children and adults, to name but a few!

As always, we are here for you and your children so please never hesitate to contact us.

Warmest wishes,
Miss Birks

Key Dates this half term:

12th January	Parent's Newsletter out
18th January	Y5 Trip to National Justice Museum
18th January	Census Day
w/c 29th January	Storytelling Week
w/c 5th February	Children's Mental Health Week
6th February	Family Bingo Evening at 3:30pm - families welcome
8th February	Disco (FS2 and KS1 3:30-4:30pm, KS2 4:45-5:45pm)
9th February	Young Voices Concert @ Utilita Arena Sheffield (evening)
9th February	Last day of term

School Terms and Holidays for Academic Year 2023-24

Spring 1 Monday 8th January - Friday 9th February 2024 Half-term holidays - Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024
Spring 2 Monday 19th February - Friday 29th March 2024 PLEASE NOTE - Bank Holiday 29th March and 1st April Easter holidays - Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 12th April 2024
Summer 1 Monday 15th April - Friday 24th May 2024 PLEASE NOTE - Bank Holiday Monday 6th May Spring Bank holidays - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024
Summer 2 Monday 3rd June - Tuesday 23rd July 2024 PLEASE NOTE - INSET Days 22nd and 23rd July Summer Holidays - Wednesday 24th July - Friday 30th August 2024

Census Day

Census Day is on **18th January** and is an important day as this is when school's funding is determined by how many children are in school, and how many take up school dinners. Please ensure your child is in school.

Our kitchen team will be offering a special Census lunch of a All-Day Brunch (sausage, omelette, beans and hash brown) which is always very popular - this can be ordered and paid for through Lunch Hound.



Storytelling Week

Can you give 10 minutes of your time to read a story to our children? Do you know of any local authors who could share their writing with us? We would love lots of storytellers during this week so please get in touch!



Family Bingo Night

Families are warmly invite to join us for a Bingo event, held in the New Hall at 3:30pm on 6th February. Bingo tickets will be 20p each, or £1 a strip. There'll be three games of bingo to be played, with prizes to be won - bring your dabbers and see you there!



New Staff Members

We welcome some new staff members to our St Michael's team; **Mrs Hodson** is the new class teacher for Y1/2 class, **Mrs Turnbull** who is teaching Y5 and supporting Y6, and **Mr Hunt** who is cover supervisor in Y5 and Y6 too.

We welcome them all and know you'll also give them a very warm Rossington welcome!

PTA News

A **big** thank you to all parents and family members who attended our Christmas performances and supported the PTA through the raffle and hot drinks. We raised just under £600 which will go towards new playground equipment and a Living Eggs experience for Early Years.

So far, they have funded a book for each child at Christmas, crackers for Christmas dinner and will be purchasing new gym equipment for the playground.

The PTA would also like to invite you in to meet for an informal chat and cuppa on Tuesday 30th Jan at 3:10pm for anyone who may have a little time to offer their support and help towards continuing the PTA. Please see Michelle Dillon if you have any questions!

D-I-S-C-O!

Our disco will be held on 8th February, with music, dancing and snacks. These are always so well attended and very popular!

Times as follows:

FS2 and KS1 - 3:30-4:30pm

KS2 - 4:45-5:45pm

Further information for purchasing tickets will be coming soon.



Read, Read and Read again!

Please, please, please ensure you are reading as much as you can with your children, or encouraging them to read as often as possible. It is so important that they re-read books as well. We ask that they try to read at least 5 times per week at home, with as many of these as possible to an adult. Reading has the biggest impact on a child's abilities and we cannot stress how important it is for your child to read regularly. Please ensure you are proactive in filling out your child's reading diary whenever they read to recognise and celebrate their efforts! The more reads they do, the more certificates they'll earn!

A fact about reading that you may or may not know is:

"When children have a home library, as few as 20 books of their own at home, they achieve 3 more years of schooling than children who don't have any books at home."



Learning this term!

As a brief outline, these are some of the areas of learning that your children will be developing this half term:

Nursery - We have welcomed some new children in to our Nursery after Christmas, so we have done a little bit more 'All About Me' to get to know each other and make friends. We will be learning two topics this half term, one called 'Journeys' when we will be reading the book 'Naughty Bus' and learning all about transport - we will even have a bus in our role play area! Our next topic will be 'Frozen World'... Brrr! We will be discovering arctic animals and playing with all things cold and wintery.

Reception - It's back to the Jurassic era in Reception this half term and we will be learning all about dinosaurs! Our book that we will be reading is called 'Gigantasaurus' and we will be exploring dinosaurs, how they lived and even hunting for and discovering fossils! We will be moving like dinosaurs in our PE lessons, and learning about melting and freezing in Science. In History, we will be learning about changes from birth to old age, and we will bring in some photographs of family members to see how much they've changed. Finally, we will be using glockenspiels in our Music lessons!

Y1/2 - In Y1/2 this half term, we are learning about African printing in Art and trying to create our own colourful designs. We are learning about 'Living and Growing' in Science, finding out how different things live and the differences in the changes they make. In History, we are learning about 2 famous people: Neil Armstrong and Rosa Parks, comparing their personalities and finding out more about them as people. We will be dancing and practicing our football skills in PE lessons.

Y3/4 - It's

Y5 - We are going back through the years, exploring crime and punishment throughout History, looking at the way it has changed over the years and comparing that to the modern day. In Geography, we are learning about Fairtrade, why it is important and who it benefits. We are deepening our understanding of Sikhism in RE, considering how Sikh stories are relevant today, whilst in Computing we are using 'Crumble', where we will be programming an LED light. We will be reading 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' in English and in Maths, it's fractions, decimals and percentages. In our French, we will be learning words that describe the weather.

Y6 - The Mayan civilisation forms a large part of our learning this term. As well as myths in English and fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths, we will also be discovering who the Mayans were, how they lived and comparing this to our lives. Our Art project will be about Peruvian textiles and we will be reading mythical Mayan tales to support writing. In Science, we will be exploring evolution and inheritance.

Children's Mental Health week

5th February starts the national Children's Mental Health week. We will be engaging in activities and learning with the children so that they have more of an understanding of good mental health, how to maintain a positive outlook and who they can talk to if they need help. Please speak to us if you have any questions at all.

Parking

Please ensure that you continue to park legally and safely. We appreciate the difficulties that are faced, but just a few more minutes or a slightly longer walk could save a serious accident or even a child's life.

Please also be mindful of our close neighbours and avoid parking over driveways.

We all want to keep our children and community as safe as we can, but we can only do this when we all work together.

Thank you for your cooperation.

